

To: William.H.Miller@usace.army.mil[William.H.Miller@usace.army.mil];
Sallie.Diebolt@usace.army.mil[Sallie.Diebolt@usace.army.mil]
Cc: Matt Clark[mclark@tucsonaudubon.org]; Brush, Jason[Brush.Jason@epa.gov];
Scott_Richardson@fws.gov[Scott_Richardson@fws.gov]
From: Daryl & Hyatt
Sent: Sat 10/17/2015 5:59:43 PM
Subject: Proposed Villages at Vigneto, Benson, AZ

Regarding the proposed development now called the "Villages at Vigneto," I am writing to request that the Army Corps of Engineers (1) rein in this development while a full EIS is conducted (under the National Environmental Policy Act), and (2) formally consult with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Environmental Protection Agency on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and Waters of the US.

Clearly, the 2006 Environmental Assessment for Whetstone Ranch is inadequate and outdated. The development proposal has changed substantially and must be re-evaluated. Since the EA was conducted nearly a decade ago, the property has changed ownership. In the process of a developing a new master plan, El Dorado has proposed substantial changes to the development in both size and extent. It would be irresponsible at best and statutorily negligent if this project were allowed to go forward without a full EIS on the impacts to jurisdictional waters, threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, mitigation properties and the human environment, resulting from development on the additional 4,324 acres, which have not been adequately analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act as required by law.

The myriad of impacts that need to be studied all can be tied to water. This is Arizona! Water, especially groundwater, is the key component to the health and well-being of the fragile environment on which we all depend. The original 2006 Environmental Assessment failed to adequately analyze the development proposal's impact upon the San Pedro River, an Environmental Protection Agency-designated Aquatic Resource of National Importance (ARNI). Potential impacts to the San Pedro River, including impacts from groundwater pumping associated with Vigneto, should be analyzed in detail in a full Environmental Impact Statement. A cone of depression caused by extensive groundwater pumping associated with Vigneto could potentially impact federal water rights associated with the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and could negatively impact adjacent land owners and downstream water users.

I urge you to act quickly, before this developer's horse is out of the gates!
Thank you.

Hyatt Simpson

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy